

Chailey Rural District Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1923.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,975 acres.
Population, 1921 census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,650.
Estimated Inhabited Houses, 1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,789.
Average number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.55.

The district is large and scattered, embracing 49,975 acres, and being nearly fourteen miles from end to end. The greater part of the area is agricultural in character, and there are no trades carried on which are a nuisance or offensive.

There are no general hospitals in the area, but the Smallpox Hospital at Sedgbrook, and the Chailey Hospital at Chailey, both come in the district.

The former is under the management of a Joint Committee, on which Chailey Rural District Council is represented.

The latter is provided by the Chailey Rural District Council, and is reported on later.

STATISTICS.

Year.	Population.	NETT BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS.			
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.	
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1919	10,530	149	14.2	11	73.8	153	14.5
1920	10,950	293	26.7	10	34.1	120	10.1
1921	12,590	230	18.26	4	17.4	100	7.94
1922	12,650	202	15.9	18	89	140	11.1
1923	12,670	200	15.8	10	50	125	9.7

The causes of deaths were as follows:—

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis, lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bronehitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brights Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital Disease, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Total...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125

Of the 200 births recorded only 6 were illegitimate.

The number of births remain practically the same as that of 1922, 200 against 202. The death rate and birth rate for the whole of England and Wales were respectively 11.6 and 19.7, and the corresponding figures for Chailey were 9.7 death rate and 15.8 birth rate, giving a so-called "natural increase" of 6 per thousand during the year.

The infantile mortality, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of children under 1 year compared to 1,000 births is 50 as against 89 last year, the figure for the country being 69. No child under 2 years of age died from diarrhoea. The credit for this must be largely attributed to the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and to the good influence of the District Nurses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

Public Supply :—

The Mid-Sussex Co. supplied part of Wivelsfield.

The Burgess Hill Water Co. supplies parts of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston.

Private Supply :—

Parts of Barcombe, Glynde, Ringmer, Beddingham and Firle.

The rest of the district is dependent on wells, and there has been no serious shortage.

No cases of lead poisoning have been reported, and no plumbo-solvent water detected.

Rivers and Streams :—

No complaints have been received of pollution, and the various sewage outfalls seem to give a good effluent.

Drainage and Sewage :—

The public systems at Ditchling, Newick, Firle and Ringmer have worked without trouble.

The private scheme at Glynde continues satisfactory.

The combined drainage from the Isolation Hospital and the Workhouse has run without any hitch.

Closet Accommodation :—

I have nothing more to say on this subject than last year. Earth closets, pail closets and middens are scattered over the rural parts, but the number of the middens is getting less.

Cesspools are of course in use in a great number of places, but no nuisance requiring Statutory action has arisen.

Scavenging :—

Regular scavenging is carried out in Ditchling, but there does not appear to be any necessity at present to inaugurate fresh schemes in other parts.

Privies and cesspools are emptied by private arrangement, as required.

Sanitary Inspection of District :—

The Inspector of Nuisances has given me the following numbers of the various visits paid during the year :—

No. in District.	Inspections.
2827 Houses	100
143 Cowstalls and Sheds	143
12 Slaughterhouses	14
5 Sewage Outfalls	247
7 Bakehouses	28
4 Dairies	8
23 Factories	87

38 New Houses were occupied.

16 Samples of Water were analysed.

12 formal notices were issued during the year, and defects were remedied in these and 14 other cases.

PREMISES WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS (OR REGULATIONS).

Bye-laws dealing with Slaughterhouses and with Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are in force, but houses let in lodgings are not dealt with, and there are no offensive trades carried on, and no underground rooms occupied.

Schools :—

There has been no complaint arising in any of the Schools.



FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply* :—

No cases of tuberculous milk have been reported, and I have heard of none in cattle.

The 4 Dairies and 143 Cowstalls have been regularly inspected.

(b) *Meat* :—

There is no regular system of inspecting meat, but visits are paid without previous notification, to the various places of slaughter.

In 1914 there were 14 Slaughterhouses registered.

In 1920 " " 14 " "

In 1921 " " 13 " "

In 1922 " " 14 " "

There are now 12.

There is no public abattoir.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications received :—

						1922.	1923.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	28	13
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	4	16
Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Enecephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
						—	—
						50	32

All the cases of dysentery were asylum cases.

Notifications received from Schools are distinctly of value, especially in enabling non-notifiable disease, such as Whooping Cough and Measles to become known.

The arrangements for cleansing verminous persons at the Isolation Hospital and Workhouse jointly have not been required.

Occasional deaths are recorded from Tuberculosis, and no notification has been received. In these cases it is my practice to point out the omission to the doctor concerned.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force :—

(a) The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 (adopted 1921).

(b) The Public Health Acts (Amendment Act 1890, so far as it is applicable to Rural Sanitary Districts. (Adopted 1921).

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Staff* :—

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

(2) *Hospital Accommodation* :—

The Joint Smallpox Hospital has not been required for use this year.

Chailey Isolation Hospital at South Common, which is under the administration of the Council, with the M.O.H. as Medical Superintendent has not had such a busy year.

(3) *Bacteriological Aids, &c.* :—

Every practitioner has been supplied with a sputum outfit, and with a swab for diphtheritic suspects, and there has been a slightly increased use made of them this year. This is done by arrangement with the Clinical Research Association, and is free of cost to the medical man or patient.

The services of the M.O.H. have been called upon occasionally for consultation on suspected cases of infectious disease, and are available when required.

A stock of antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital and given to doctors on request.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Staff is made up of the Matron, Mrs. Fairbank, one nurse and one probationer, as far as technical work is concerned, with your M.O.H. as Superintendent.

The patients treated during the year were :—

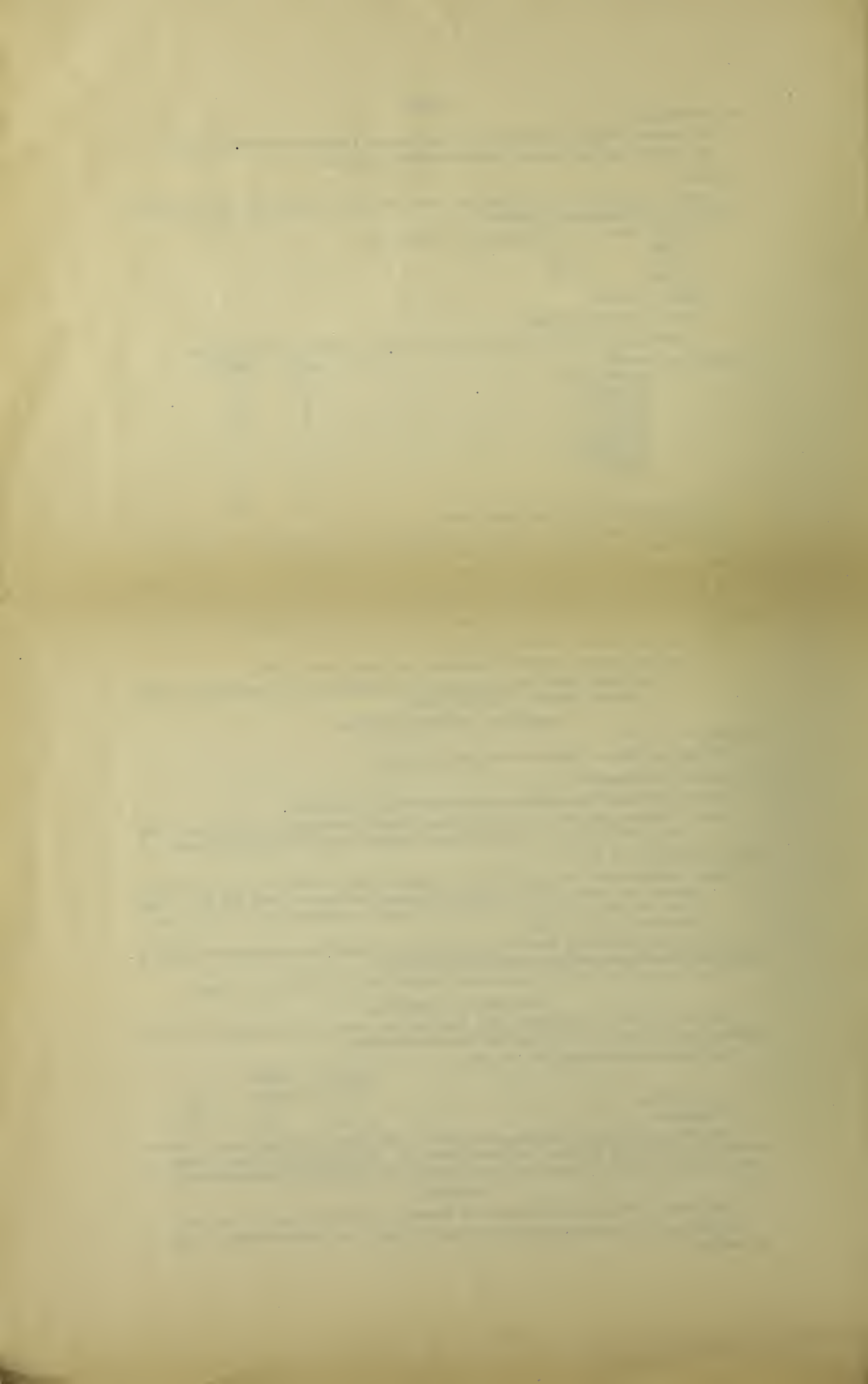
						Chailey R.D.	Other districts.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	9	6	15
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the whole of the staff, from the Matron downwards, for the way in which they have carried on. There have been times of rush and stress, as must inevitably be the case, and everything has gone smoothly and uninterruptedly.

HOUSING.

The general condition of the Housing in the district is up to the average of a rural area.

No bad cases of overcrowding have been brought forward, and the defects found to exist are not serious.



APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ending 31st December, 1923.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Population (estimated)	12,670
(2) General Death rate	9.7
(3) Tuberculosis death rate	1
(4) Infant Mortality	50
(5) Dwelling Houses of all Classes	2,827
(6) Working Class Dwelling Houses	1,261
(7) Working Class Dwelling Houses erected	15

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—*Inspection.*

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for Housing Defects, under Public Health or Housing Acts	100
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	100
(3) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for habitation	1
(4) Number (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	38

II.—*Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices* 14

III.—*Action under Statutory powers—*

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, etc., Act, 1919—

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners	12
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.—

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—	
(a) by Owner	0
(b) Local Authority in default of Owner	0

C. Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

Closing Order made	1
Put in good repair and re-opened	1

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Nil.

4.—Number of Houses not complying with the Building Bye-Laws, erected with consent of Local Authority, under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919... None

5.—Staff engaged on Housing work :—

M.O.H., general duties.

Sanitary Inspector, general duties.

W. A. DOW, M.D., D.P.H.

